

REMARKS

The present response cancels claims 19-25 without prejudice or disclaimer as to the subject matter recited therein. Claims 1-18 remain pending in the application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Section 121 Restriction:

In response to the Examiner's restriction requirement in section 1 of the Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. § 121, Applicants elect without traverse the invention of Group I (claims 1-18).

Title:

In section 2, the Office Action suggested that the title be changed in accordance with the above election. Accordingly, the title has been so amended.

Abstract:

In section 3, the Office Action objected to the abstract with regard to the above election and suggested an amendment. Accordingly, the abstract has been so amended.

Section 103(a) Rejection:

In section 5, the Office Action rejected claims 1, 4-9, and 12-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blackledge, Jr. et al., U.S. Patent Number 5,835,738, (hereinafter "Blackledge") in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter "AAPA"). The Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 recites, in pertinent part, “A bus bridge circuit, wherein the bus bridge circuit is adapted for coupling to a first bus comprising n address lines, ... and wherein the bus bridge circuit comprises: audio logic configured to ... produce an $n-1$ bit address ... ; and an addressable register ... for storing an additional address bit; and wherein ... the bus bridge circuit is configured to ... concatenate the additional address bit with the $n-1$ bit address to produce an n -bit address.”

Blackledge, abstract, lines 1-6, describes “An information processing system comprises a processor, a first bus for conducting signals in accordance with a first bus protocol that does not support I/O address signals; a second bus for conducting signals in accordance with a second bus protocol that supports input/output (I/O) address signals; and a bridge circuit for coupling the first bus to the second bus.”

The Office Action, at page 5, third paragraph acknowledges that Blackledge is completely silent with respect to a bus bridge circuit comprising audio logic, as presented in claim 1. Therefore, Blackledge cannot possibly teach or suggest the bus bridge circuit of claim 1.

The Office Action relies on AAPA to describe a bus bridge circuit comprising audio logic. AAPA, page 3, lines 23-25, describes “The value of the most significant bit of the n -bit address is determined by electrically connecting a terminal of the “south” bridge circuit to one of two different voltage levels”, and at page 4, lines 6-8 “once the terminal of the “south” bridge circuit is connected to one of the two voltage levels, the half of the address space of the bus in which addresses produced by the “south” bridge reside is so difficult to change as to reasonably be considered fixed”. Thus, AAPA teaches away from “an addressable register comprising a bit position for storing an additional address bit”, as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, since neither Blackledge nor AAPA, taken either singly or in combination teaches or suggests the bus bridge circuit of claim 1, Applicants believe that claim 1 and all claims depending therefrom patentably distinguish over the cited art.

Claims 9 and 17 recite features, which are similar to those recited in claim 1, and therefore, these claims along with all claims depending from them are likewise believed to patentably distinguish over the cited art for the reasons given with regard to claim 1.

In section 6, the Office Action rejected claims 2 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blackledge, Jr. et al., U.S. Patent Number 5,835,738, (hereinafter “Blackledge”) in view of Applicant’s Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter “AAPA”) as applied to 1, 4-9, and 12-17 above, and in further view of Jander et al., U.S. Patent Number 5,857,080, (hereinafter “Jander”). The Applicants respectfully traverse.

Jander, abstract, lines 1-2, describes “A bridge translates addresses between a first bus and a second bus, with a larger address space capability.”

Jander is completely silent with respect to a bus bridge circuit comprising audio logic, as presented in claims 2 and 10. Therefore, Jander cannot possibly teach or suggest the bus bridge circuit of claims 2 and 10. Given the arguments presented above with regard to claim 1 it is clear that neither Jander, Blackledge, nor AAPA, taken either singly or in combination, teaches or suggests the bus bridge circuit of claims 2 and 10. Therefore, Applicants believe that claims 2 and 10 patentably distinguish over the cited art.

In section 7, the Office Action rejected claims 3, 11, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blackledge, Jr. et al., U.S. Patent Number 5,835,738, (hereinafter “Blackledge”) in view of Applicant’s Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter “AAPA”) as applied to 1, 4-9, and 12-17 above, and in further view of Jander et al., U.S. Patent Number 5,857,080, (hereinafter “Jander”) and what was well known in the art as

exemplified by Henning et al., U.S. Patent Number 5,835,430, (hereinafter “Henning”). The Applicants respectfully traverse.

Henning, in the abstract, lines 1-3, describes “A method of providing redundancy in an electrically alterable memory divided into addressable blocks within the memory.”

Henning is completely silent with respect to a bus bridge circuit comprising audio logic, as presented in claims 3, 11, and 18. Therefore, Henning cannot possibly teach or suggest the bus bridge circuit of claims 3, 11, and 18. Given the arguments presented above with regard to claim 1 it is clear that neither Henning, Jander, Blackledge, nor AAPA, taken either singly or in combination, teaches or suggests the bus bridge circuit of claims 3, 11, and 18. Therefore, Applicants believe that claims 3, 11, and 18 patentably distinguish over the cited art.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5681/46700.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: 7-15-04